

Stormwater Steering Committee December 6, 2007

This meeting took place at Bonestroo Engineering in Roseville.

Attendees: Gary Oberts, Andrea Hendrickson, Art Person, Don Jakes, Mary Hoffman Lynn, Scott Anderson, Jay Riggs, Brett Troyer, Mike Findorff, Jack Frost, Anne Gelbmann, Jason Moeckel, Judy Sventek, Ron Harnack, Remi Stone, Renee Pardello, John Bilotta, Steven Calvin, John Gulliver, Mike Isensee, Dave Weirens, Cliff Aichinger, Joel Schilling, Erik Silvola, Keith Hanson, Steve Klein, Randy Neprash, Dale Thompson, Bruce Wilson, Jean Coleman, Shelly Shreffler, Shane Missaghi, .

Jason Moeckel chaired the committee in Steven Pedersen's absence.

NPDES Construction Stormwater Compliance Work Group Report: Jay Riggs

Jay presented "Recommended Solutions to Enhance Compliance with the NPDES Construction Permit;" the culmination of months of work by his workgroup. A handout was made available. Jay discussed the Scope of the Problem, Causes of Noncompliance, and Recommended Solutions. There are eight areas of recommended changes and corresponding solutions.

- Education
- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Technical Assistance
- Overlap/Consistency/Responsibility
- Cost/Bidding
- Standards
- SWPPPs

Action Item: Jay asked that the SSC vote to approve the final report and commit to leading the implementation effort. Discussion on funding for the recommendations followed. Cliff stated that the greater importance at this time was to move ahead with the report and recommendation process and deal with funding later as it will be a long process to secure funding. Cliff moved to adopt the report. It was seconded by Randy. The motion passed.

MPCA Internal Stormwater Program Review: Don Jakes

From September 12 to October 11th, 12 focus groups were held.

- 5 regional multiple stakeholder
- 3 MPCA staff
- 1 MS4 (League of Cities)
- 1 Consultants
- 1 MN Chamber of Commerce
- 1 St. Paul multiple stakeholder

Approximately 150 people were part of these focus groups. Information from the focus groups, interviews, recommendations from SSC work groups, and the World Café was compiled into themes and ranked. At least four focus groups/persons participated in the synthesis of information. An affinity diagram with all themes was created during the focus groups/interviews

as were high level questions also created. The goal was to determine the drivers of the stormwater system and to create an initial set of priorities and rapid action steps. A synthesis group was formed of 12 members. Nine key questions were gleaned from the customer/stakeholder research. The analysis is still in progress and they will need more time before bringing the results and information to the SSC. Gary Oberts would like to know what the MPCA has found out introspectively about the agency itself through all of this process.

Monitoring and Research; John Gulliver from the U of M:

John provided a summary of the U of M's stormwater monitoring work efforts over the past several years. John stated that years ago they were challenged to find better, faster, cheaper ways to measure stormwater runoff. "Developing an Assessment Program for Stormwater BMPs" was the result of this work. He talked about what an assessment is and its purpose. Four levels of assessment were proposed:

- Visual inspection
- Capacity Testing
- Synthetic runoff testing
- Monitoring

Testing for capacity, synthetic runoff, drain time comparison, and monitoring was done at rain gardens in:

- Burnsville – residential LID site
- Cottage Grove – Park and Ride
- Duluth – U of M Campus
- Little Canada – Ramsey – Washington Metro Watershed District
- Maplewood – Thompson Lake
- St. Paul – U of M Campus

They are developing certified training for visual inspection, an assessment manual, expanding infiltration techniques, and measurement techniques for suspended solids, a watershed TMDL study, and two trout stream TMDL studies. They are looking for partners and ideas. The thermal models are not ready as of yet.

LCCMR Project: Jean Coleman

Jean distributed a pamphlet and handout on the work of the Legislative-Citizen Commission Minnesota Resources. Their goal is to achieve a better future for Minnesota's natural resources. The project vision is three-fold:

- Common understanding
- Useful tools
- Environmental strategic plan

Phase I was to create a common understanding of change and drivers of change in our natural resources. This phase has been completed. Phase II, in progress, is to look at seven key issues

- Land and Water Habitat Fragmentation, Degradation and Loss
- Land use practices
- Energy Production and Use
- Ground Water Consumption
- Toxic Contamination
- Transportation

- Invasive Species

Ultimately people are the drivers of change. Where we live and what we consume affect multiple resources.

MEI Focus Group Activity: Shelly Shreffler

The group is working with state and local units of government, BWSR, Met Council, Department of Agriculture, MPCA and DNR on water protection and how to better achieve that goal. They are looking at areas where there may be redundancies and finding gaps. They have done a series of focus groups with LUGs as to how their resources are being protected. Five groups were held in five different counties. The groups were made up of city officials, county staff, developers, consulting engineers. Some of the findings were:

- Cities see themselves as the source of natural resource protection
- Cities expressed frustration over bureaucratic contradictions
- It was found that usually one person in a city, etc. is the sole champion of the cause of clean water
- Stereotypes are still strong and in place over natural resource protection
- They felt that citizens and MPCA have greatest impact on water resources. Citizens were not viewed as a positive influence in resource protection due to citizen behaviors toward water and lack of support for city officials on the subject.
- Enforcement – frustration over lack of enforcement

MEI sees future success coming from good BMPs, coordinating state requirements, creating a shared vision for natural resources. The group hopes to have Phase II wrapped up within one year. The final report should be complete by the end of next week and can be obtained from Shelly.

SSC Roadmap Project: Mary Lynn

Mary provided an update on the Roadmap. On October 13 it went out for informal solicitation for a contractor. Two proposals were received. The committee has made a selection and is in the process of getting the contract signed. The contractor will be made public once the contract is signed. The project should be complete by end of May. The contractor will be involved in the SSC meetings and Ops meetings. Mary will get the Scope of Work document out to the SSC members to look over before the January meeting. The committee discussed the possibility of starting the SSC earlier to have ample time to dedicate to the Roadmap. The Ops Committee will address this idea at their next meeting, scheduled for December 14.

In the interest of time the Wetland Conservation Act Rule Effort was tabled until the next meeting in January.

Work Group Reports:

Manual – Judy Sventek:

The manual and changes will be on the web by the end of December. The Blue Book is the priority now but funding is the issue. The cost of a new book is unknown and a new book would be at least two years away.

Watershed Based Approach – Gary Oberts

December 11th is the group's next meeting. They hope to finalize the conclusions and recommendations and wrap things up. He feels they have a consensus and hope to present at the January SSC meeting.

LID –Anne Gelbmann:

The group met in October and looked at barriers to LID and prioritized them. They looked at how those barriers are being addressed in Minnesota. At the next meeting they will put together a list of all barriers and examine how communities are addressing those barriers. Members of the group will be attending meetings in greater Minnesota where discussions on LID in other communities are taking place. There are several upcoming conferences of interest, one is a planning workshop in Stillwater next week and possibly one in March in the west metro. The group meets again on December 20th.

The U of M water resource conference has all of its presentations on their website for those who have an interest, one of those being “Impervious Cover”

Industrial - Keith Hanson:

The MPCA has sent out a second draft of the permit and the Chamber of Commerce has reviewed the first draft and made comments. The group will meet December 13th and continue to work on the second draft. They are looking at the idea of a phased application for the expired permits. It would help to stagger the workload for the MPCA staff. The hope is to put the permit out for public notice at the end of March 2008. Discussions on nondegradation are taking place as is the fact that they are not going to public notice all of the SWPPPs. EPA has yet to finalize their MSGP – which may impact the industrial permit.

Nondegradation – Mary Lynn:

Carol Nankivel is the lead for nondeg, working with Bill Cole. The planning process is ongoing in order to get a draft big picture timeline completed.. Data is currently being collected, and the stakeholder process is slated for next year; it is hoped to have worked completed by 2011.

Agenda for January:

- MPCA Internal Stormwater Program Review
- Roadmap
- Blue Book
- Watershed Based Approach
- Wetland Conservation Act Rule Effort